

108TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. CON. RES. 62

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 15, 2004

Received and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of Congress that Katherine Dunham should be recognized for her groundbreaking achievements in dance, theater, music, and education, as well as for her work as an activist striving for racial equality throughout the world.

Whereas Katherine Dunham was born on June 22, 1909, and began formal dance training in her late teens;

Whereas, in the 1930s, Katherine Dunham revolutionized American dance by incorporating the roots of black dance and ritual, and by transforming these elements into choreography accessible to all through the Katherine Dunham Technique;

Whereas Katherine Dunham completed her bachelor's degree in social anthropology at the University of Chicago, was a pioneer in the use of folk and ethnic choreography, and was one of the founders of the anthropological dance movement;

Whereas Katherine Dunham utilized her dance career and public status to draw attention to issues of segregation and the civil rights movement;

Whereas Katherine Dunham founded Les Ballet Negre in 1931, the first black ballet company in the United States;

Whereas Les Ballet Negre became known as the Katherine Dunham Dance Company, touring in more than 60 countries during the 1940s;

Whereas Katherine Dunham was a dancer, choreographer, and director on Broadway, and was the first black choreographer at the Metropolitan Opera;

Whereas, in 1945, Katherine Dunham founded the Dunham School of Dance and Theatre in Manhattan, thereby providing a centralized location for students to immerse themselves in dance technique while also studying topics in the humanities, languages, ethics, philosophy, and drama;

Whereas, in 1967, Katherine Dunham established the Performing Arts Training Center in East St. Louis, Missouri, which enrolled high-risk youth into its programs in fine, performing, and cultural arts;

Whereas Katherine Dunham founded the Katherine Dunham Centers for Arts and Humanities in 1969, and the Katherine Dunham Museum and Children's Workshop in 1977;

Whereas Katherine Dunham went on a 47-day hunger strike in 1993 to call attention to the welfare of Haitians, thereby shifting public opinion concerning the United States' relations with Haiti, and helping to precipitate the return of Haiti's first democratically elected president;

Whereas Katherine Dunham has received 10 honorary doctorates and numerous awards, including the Presidential Medal of Arts, the French Legion of Honor, the NAACP's Lifetime Achievement Award, and the Kennedy Center Honor's Award; and

Whereas Katherine Dunham continues to be an activist, teacher, and mentor to young people throughout the world: Now, therefore, be it

1        *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*  
 2   *concurring)*, That it is the sense of Congress that Kath-  
 3 erine Dunham should be recognized for her work as a  
 4 teacher, dancer, choreographer, and actress, for her dedi-  
 5 cation to improving the opportunities in the arts that are  
 6 available to the Nation's youth, and for her lifelong com-  
 7 mitment to humanitarian causes around the world.

Passed the House of Representatives June 14, 2004.

Attest:

JEFF TRANDAHL,

*Clerk.*